

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION
STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

State Capitol, Room 152

July 24, 2009

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Standards Committee of the Montana Public Defender Commission was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Committee Chair Fritz Gillespie.

Commissioners Present

Caroline Fleming, Miles City, Mike Sherwood, Missoula; Tara Veazey, Helena; Stephen Nardi, Kalispell; Jennifer Hensley, Butte; Kenneth Olson, Great Falls; and Richard (Fritz) Gillespie, Helena

Other Interested Parties

Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender; Harry Freebourn, Administrative Director; Scott Crichton, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU); and Judge Sheldon Singer, representing the American University evaluation team

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 9, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Examples of Past Responsibilities

Commissioner Gillespie said that the Committee needs to go back and review the Standards and policies and see what needs tweaking. Chief Hood agreed that it should be an ongoing process.

Ancillary Proceedings

Determination of Indigence after Initial Representation by Retained Counsel

Contract Standard

These three standards were discussed earlier in the Contracts Process Committee. Commissioner Gillespie moved to adopt all three proposed changes to the Standards and forward them to the full Commission for approval at the next meeting. Commissioner Sherwood seconded, and the motion carried.

Case Management Tool

Caseload monitoring is included in the Standards, and this is the tool that has been adopted in negotiations with the union. It will be fine-tuned at an upcoming Labor Management Committee meeting. At the next meeting, there will a report on the proposed changes, and a refresher course on how the tool works to manage caseloads. Commission feedback will be welcome.

Commissioner Sherwood will send some weighting samples that he has to Chief Hood and the Commission for their review.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business/New Business (*Action Items)

Commissioner Sherwood asked how to deal with non-monetary complaints from contract attorneys. Commissioner Veazey suggested that the Contracts Process Committee draft a policy.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.